

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 15 and 16 are amended. Claims 17-19 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. In particular, the allowable subject matter of claims 17-19 has been incorporated into independent claims 1, 15 and 16, respectively. No new matter is added by these amendments. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 2, 5, 6, 8-11, 13, 14 and 17-19 contain allowable subject matter.

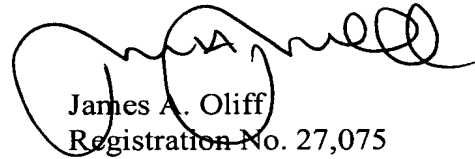
The Office Action rejects claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, independent claims 1, 15 and 16 are amended to clearly define recognize and not recognized as recited in previous dependent claims 17-19. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 7, 12, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0200503 to Koppich et al. (hereinafter "Koppich"). The rejection is moot because the allowable subject matter of claims 17-19 has been incorporated into independent claims 1, 15 and 16, respectively.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claim are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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